



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

February 29, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: A RARE FIND



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/rare-pearl-1.3463445>

WARM UP

Look at the picture. What is it? Where do you think it was found?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Listen to the first newscast for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, write your answers down to the questions below. Take a moment to review the questions before listening a second time.

1. What did the woman bite down on?
2. Where was she when this happened?
3. What did she have as an entrée?
4. What did she do when she found it?
5. What did the gemologist say?
6. What does she plan to do with her find?

**NEWSCAST 2: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS GETTING RID OF CITIZENSHIP RULES
BROUGHT IN BY THE CONSERVATIVES**



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/john-mccallum-citizenship-act-repeal-bill-1.3463471>

WARM UP

Did you watch the debates during the last federal election? Why or why not? The two leaders of the Liberal and Conservative parties, Justin Trudeau and Stephen Harper, had some heated debates regarding citizenship and immigration.

Look at the title of this newscast. Based on the image and the title, predict what the newscast is about.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (AUDIO CLIP 1:02)

Listen to the second newscast. While you listen, take notes below.

If you are in a class, report the details that you understood with a partner or the group.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1 – TASK A

Look at the following words and phrases below. Try to match the words in column A with the definitions in Column B. The first one is done for you. Scan the words and find the definitions for the words you understand first. Leave the difficult ones blank.

#	Column A	Column B
10	to get rid of something	1. the use of violence and intimidation for political purposes
	to allow	2. to make necessary; to demand something of someone
	to be stripped of something	3. to lessen; to make smaller; to decrease; to minimize
	terrorism	4. to permit; to authorize; to agree to
	treason	5. to put an end to; to cancel; to withdraw; to retract; to overrule
	spying	6. wrongful or criminal deception for financial or personal gain
	to revoke	7. disloyalty; the crime of betraying one's country
	guilty of something	8. to break laws; to commit illegal or immoral actions
	fraud	9. to make something less severe or less difficult
	to commit crimes	10. to take away; to give away; to do away with
	be dealt with	11. to be somewhere in person; to be in attendance
	to reduce	12. working for government and secretly collecting confidential information
	to ease something	13. an obstacle; a hurdle; an obstacle that keeps people apart
	to be physically present	14. to be deprived of; to take away something from someone
	to require	15. to handle; to cope with; to manage; to take care of; to tackle; to take on
	barrier	16. to have done something wrong; to have committed an offence

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1 – TASK B

Compare your answers with a partner's answers if you are in a class. If you are doing this lesson on your own, move on to the next task (Task C).

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1 – TASK C

Read the transcript of the newscast below. Underline the words in Vocabulary Activity 1 - Task A. The first one is done for you.

The federal government is getting rid of citizenship rules brought in by the Conservatives. Legislation last year allowed Canadians who held dual nationalities to be stripped of their Canadian citizenship if they were found guilty of terrorism, treason or spying offences.

Immigration minister, John McCallum, says it will still be possible to revoke citizenship for those who are guilty of citizenship fraud but those that commit crimes will be dealt with by the criminal system.

The new bill also reduces the time immigrants must spend in Canada before they can apply for citizenship and eases language requirements for new arrivals.

The Citizenship Act currently requires applicants to be physically present in Canada for four of six years before applying for citizenship. The new bill would reduce that to three of five years.

The current act also requires immigrants between the ages of 14 and 64 to demonstrate knowledge of English or French. The Liberals are shrinking that age group. Under the proposed changes, applicants between the ages of 18 and 54 would be required to show language proficiency. The move, the government says, would remove "a potential barrier to citizenship for applicants in both the younger and older age group."

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1 – TASK D

Now that you have read the transcript, go back to Task A to see if you can guess the definitions for the words you left blank. When you are finished, check your answers with the answer key.

Read the transcript again. Are there other words you do not understand? If yes, circle these and look up their definitions.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (AUDIO CLIP 1:02)

Now, listen to the newscast again and follow along with the transcript.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss or consider the following questions.

- What do you think of these changes?
- Are they positive changes in your opinion? Why or why not?
- Do these changes impact you or your family members that may wish to immigrate to Canada?

NEWSCAST 3: AN UNFORTUNATE TRIP ACROSS A BRIDGE FOR A YOUNG ELK IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/banff-wolf-pack-elk-takedown-christopher-martin-photographer-1.3462499>

WARM UP

Look at the picture above and the title for this newscast. Describe what you see. Are you familiar with these animals?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 2:50)

Listen to the third newscast for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 2:50)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, write your answers down to the questions below. Take a moment to review the questions before listening a second time.

1. What does Christopher Martin do for a living?
2. What was it that caught his eye?
3. Why was it unusual behaviour?
4. When he got closer, what did he see?
5. How did he feel about what he saw?

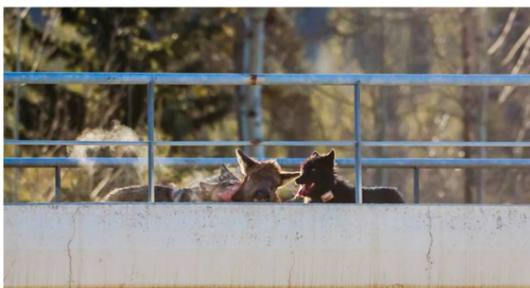
VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the expressions used in the story below. Write the definitions beside the ones you do not understand.

WORDS/EXPRESSIONS	DEFINITION OR SYNONYM
spot	
go back and forth	
catch your eye	
pull over	
keep handy	
alternate	
vice versa	
take down	
flee	
chat	

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

Now use the 6 pictures below to tell the story in your own words.



TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 29th.	0:00
Newscast 1 http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/rare-pearl-1.3463445	<p>A woman bit down on a rare pearl while eating a meal of clams and other seafood at an Italian restaurant in Washington state.</p> <p>Lindsay Hasz says she bit into something hard in her entrée. She wasn't sure what it was but put it in her pocket and went home.</p> <p>She took it to a gemologist who determined it was a Quahog purple pearl worth about \$818CDN. Ted Irwin of Northwest Geological Laboratory says the find is rare, with only one in a couple million being of gem quality.</p> <p>The owner of the restaurant says she's happy for Hasz. Hasz says she may have the pearl made into a necklace.</p>	0:09
Newscast 2 http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/john-mccallum-citizenship-act-repeal-bill-1.3463471	<p>The federal government is getting rid of citizenship rules brought in by the Conservatives. Legislation last year allowed Canadians who held dual nationalities to be stripped of their Canadian citizenship if they were found guilty of terrorism, treason or spying offences.</p> <p>Immigration minister, John McCallum, says it will still be possible to revoke citizenship for those who are guilty of citizenship fraud but those that commit crimes will be dealt with by the criminal system.</p> <p>The new bill also reduces the time immigrants must spend in Canada before they can apply for citizenship and eases language requirements for new arrivals.</p> <p>The Citizenship Act currently requires applicants to be physically present in Canada for four of six years before applying for citizenship. The new bill would reduce that to three of five years.</p> <p>The current act also requires immigrants between the ages of 14 and 64 to demonstrate knowledge of English or French. The Liberals are shrinking that age group. Under the proposed changes, applicants between the ages of 18 and 54 would be required to show language proficiency. The move, the government says, would remove "a potential barrier to citizenship for applicants in both the younger and older age group."</p>	1:02

<p>Newscast 3</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/banff-wolf-pack-elk-takedown-christopher-martin-photographer-1.3462499</p>	<p>Professional photographer Christopher Martin spends a lot of time watching wildlife so when he spotted an elk walking back and forth on a bridge in Banff National Park it caught his eye.</p> <p>It was unusual behaviour he said as it would take a few steps in one direction and then go backwards. It did this a few times. The curious Bragg Creek resident pulled his car over and grabbed his camera, which he always keeps handy.</p> <p>As he looked through the camera lens he saw a wolf appear and bite the elk's neck. He got out of the car and hiked up a hill where he could see better. When he got closer, he saw not just one wolf attacking the elk but at least four. They were alternating in the attack. One or two would attack from the back and then the other would bite the neck, or vice versa.</p> <p>The pack took the elk down twice and each time it managed to get back up and continue trying to flee. Finally, the wolves took it down for a third time, and it didn't get back up.</p> <p>Parks Canada employees had arrived by this time and were monitoring the situation. Martin chatted with them while the wolves ate. Martin added, "To be able to see [something like this] in the park is pretty amazing."</p>	<p>2:50</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1: A RARE FIND

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, write your answers down to the questions below. Take a moment to review the questions before listening a second time.

1. What did the woman bite down on?
She bit down on a rare pearl / a rare pearl
2. Where was she when this happened?
This happened while she was eating / at a restaurant
3. What did she have as an entrée?
Her entrée included clams and other seafood / clams and seafood
4. What did she do when she found it?
She put it in her pocket and took it home.
5. What did the gemologist say?
The gemologist says it is a Quahog purple pearl that is rare – one in a couple million
6. What does she plan to do with her find?
She plans to get a necklace made with it

TRANSCRIPT

A woman bit down on a rare pearl while eating a meal of clams and other seafood at an Italian restaurant in Washington state.

Lindsay Hasz says she bit into something hard in her entrée. She wasn't sure what it was but put it in her pocket and went home.

She took it to a gemologist who determined it was a Quahog purple pearl worth about \$818CDN. Ted Irwin of Northwest Geological Laboratory says the find is rare, with only one in a couple million being of gem quality.

The owner of the restaurant says she's happy for Hasz. Hasz says she may have the pearl made into a necklace.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS GETTING RID OF CITIZENSHIP RULES BROUGHT IN BY THE CONSERVATIVES

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1 – TASK A

Look at the following words and phrases below. Try to match the words in column A with the definitions in Column B. The first one is done for you.

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10	to get rid of something	1. the use of violence and intimidation for political purposes
4	to allow	2. to make necessary; to demand something of someone
14	to be stripped of (something)	3. to lessen; to make smaller; to decrease; to minimize
1	terrorism	4. to permit; to authorize; to agree to
7	treason	5. to put an end to; to cancel; to withdraw; to retract; to overrule
12	spying	6. wrongful or criminal deception for financial or personal gain
5	to revoke	7. disloyalty; the crime of betraying one's country
16	guilty of (something)	8. to break laws; to commit illegal or immoral actions
6	fraud	9. to make something less severe or less difficult
8	to commit crimes	10. to take away; to give away; to do away with
15	be dealt with	11. to be somewhere in person; to be in attendance
3	to reduce	12. working for government and secretly collecting confidential information
9	to ease (something)	13. an obstacle; a hurdle; an obstacle that keeps people apart
11	to be physically present	14. to be deprived of; to take away something from someone
2	to require	15. to handle; to cope with; to manage; to take care of; to tackle; to take on
13	barrier	16. to have done something wrong; to have committed an offence

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1 – TASK C

The federal government is getting rid of citizenship rules brought in by the Conservatives. Legislation last year allowed Canadians who held dual nationalities to be stripped of their Canadian citizenship if they were found guilty of terrorism, treason or spying offences.

Immigration minister, John McCallum, says it will still be possible to revoke citizenship for those who are guilty of citizenship fraud but those that commit crimes will be dealt with by the criminal system.

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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3: AN UNFORTUNATE TRIP ACROSS A BRIDGE FOR A YOUNG ELK IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 2:50)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, write your answers down to the questions below. Take a moment to review the questions before listening a second time.

1. What does Christopher Martin do for a living?
He is a professional photographer
2. What was it that caught his eye?
An elk walking back and forth on a bridge
3. Why was it unusual behaviour?
The elk was going backwards and forwards
4. When he got closer, what did he see?
When he got closer, he saw not just one wolf attacking the elk but at least four. They were alternating in the attack. One or two would attack from the back and then the other would bite the neck, or vice versa.
5. How did he feel about what he saw?
He thought it was amazing

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the expressions used in the story below. Write the definitions beside the ones you do not understand.

WORDS/EXPRESSIONS	DEFINITION OR SYNONYM
spot	to see
go back and forth	to move in one direction then the other
catch your eye	to see something that makes you look again
pull over	to move to the side of the road
keep handy	to keep near; within reach
alternate	occur repeatedly; take turns
vice versa	the other way around
take down	to take from a standing position to the ground
flee	run away from danger
chat	to talk briefly or informally

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca